

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

21 FEB. 1962

~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Berlin

a) After filing flight plans yesterday, three Soviet transports were in the air in the southern corridor this morning. By 0730 this morning we had received no reports of interference with the US and British flights scheduled during the period and within the altitudes set out in the Soviet flight plans.

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b) The Soviet newspaper commentator, one Polyamov, who has been leading the Moscow chorus of protest against the lack of progress in the Thompson-Gromyko talks, returned to the subject yesterday, again declaring that the USSR has not renounced the idea of a separate peace treaty.

2. Laos

- a) Souvanna is on the way to Vientiane for another meeting with Phoumi. Western ambassadors have urged him to bring a specific cabinet slate with him, but it is early yet for any word on that score.
- b) Souphannouvong is still insisting that he will not relax military pressure on Nam Tha until Phoumi gives some political ground.
- c) There are some indications that Souphannouvong has not been following Soviet cues as studiously as Moscow would like. Some uneasiness on that score could account for the decision to pull Ambassador Abramov back to Moscow suddenly for 10 days of consultations.

3. Initial Bloc reaction to Mercury flight

Moscow domestic and foreign-language news bulletins carried prompt, short reports on the launching, flight, and recovery of the space capsule. Moscow radio carried a recording of Glenn's voice in the first orbit. Eastern European broadcasts generally followed the same pattern except for East German reports which emphasized difficulties and referred to the "great propaganda hullabaloo." Peiping has factually reported the flight. Havana television early this morning carried a commentary which offered congratulations.

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5. British Guiana

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a minimum, a sharpening of racial antagonisms in the colony is a virtual certainty.

c) Jagan is now hinting publicly

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that his opposition has had outside, i.e., US, encouragement.

6. Moscow bids for North
Vietnamese support
against Peiping

A fairly high-level Soviet delegation--it is headed by one of Moscow's ranking pros in the area of inter-party dealings who has been deeply involved in the Sino-Soviet argument--is now on route to Hanoi. Probable mission: to induce the North Vietnamese to climb down from the fence onto the Soviet side. The USSR may also wish to assure itself of sufficient control over the Laotian and Vietnamese situations to prevent their getting out of hand.

NOTES

- A. De Gaulle yesterday told Ambassador Gavin that the Algerian situation was "indeed finally being settled." He had no objections to US-French discussions on helping Algeria after independence, but doubted they could lead to much until after an Algerian government was established.
- B. The positioning of support ships and recovery aircraft indicates that a Soviet space launch is not far off. As of now, it looks like an unmanned earth satellite vehicle.
- C. The Indonesians, increasingly cool to having the UN as the third party in any negotiations with the Dutch, have begun to think of Canada as a possible choice after it became clear to them that the US does not want that role.

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE